GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 26 GOLD HILL, OR. 97525 Phone 855-9351 JUNE 1990

THE CITY OF GOLD HILL HAS BEEN MAKING HISTORY THIS MONTH.

Historical Event # 1 :

As you know from the last newsletter, the Gold Hill Library celebrated its 75th birthday May 2. The open house was held by the Friends of the Library. President Sue Mapolski invited many local authors for the event, which egan at 1 p.m. and continued until nearly 7 p.m.. Everyone was put in a festive mood when the jazz group from Scenic Junior High, who call themselves "Summer Breeze" performed. They sang a medley of songs by Phil Collins. Director Jim Wally also brought the "Jazz Express" from Crater High. Both groups were excellent.

Linda Genaw gave a talk on the history of early Gold Hill at 4 p.m.. David Dials put on his old crusher hat and transformed into Hathaway Jones and entertained us all with his tall tales.

We were also honored by the presence of two of Gold Hill's former Librarians: Mary Kell who was Librarian from 1935 to 1940, and Frances Brown who was Librarian from 1963 to 1982.

Four of our members were in attendance along with displays of their books. They were: Art Campbell, Linda Genaw, Ruby Lacy and Lida Childers.

Our newest members, Ruby Lacy, and her partner, Lida Childers, were on hand with their numerous books. They have compiled over 40 books on local historical statistics. Their books include marriage records, census records, death records, wills, probates, and guardianships and even books on how to do family research.

The work these two women do in preserving historic records is to be commended. They are presently working on extractions from the local newspapers.

Art Campbell had both of his books there, as did Linda Genaw.

Other local authors were: Don Casilio, who writes about trees, birds etc.; Dean Ing, who is a science fiction writer: and Gene Olson writes on a variety of subjects. Other Authors included Gordon Walker, who has written a book about how to be a mule packer, from his many experiences; Sue Mapolski who writes children's books; and Jane Watson Hopping who wrote two best selling cookbooks. Many of you will remember Jane Hopping, as she presented a program at one of our meetings, when we were putting our own cookbook together last year.

Historical Event # 2 :

Hanby, or Gold Hill School, as it is more commonly known to the old timers, is 80 years old this year. The idea for a birthday party came to Alma Gates when she first started planning the Hanby nomination project. Mrs. Gates and Teresa Mitchell asked Linda Genaw if the Gold Hill Historical Society would like to help out. Linda readily agreed, since she is at school nearly everyday with the T.A.G. students.

(cont. pg 2)

L to R Crayetta Armstrong, Lottie (Fleming) Frost, and Mary Bradish Photograph by Linda Genaw

An invitation to the birthday party was then included on the questionnaires that the T.A.G. students sent out to former students and faculty. The response was great.

Alma Gates contacted Robert Wolff, who works on the annual Gold Hill High School reunion for a list of former students. As a result over 240 invitations were sent out.

Mary Barker, Sandy Mazurek, Mary Ellen Christian, Alma Gates, Linda Genaw and several of the students went to work planning events for May 9, 1990.

Sandy Mazurek, who is the band teacher, organized the talent show. She also led the "award-Winning Hanby Band" as they marched and played outside the school. The Hanby Band took first place in its division in the Pear Blossom Parade this year. This makes the fourth consecutive year they have won first place in their division. They had also been to Newport, Oregon the weekend of May 5th, and walked away with a first place ribbon.

The first floor of Hanby served as a reception area where the former students signed in and received name tags. One of the oldest students was Lottie Fleming Frost, class of 1922. Her father, Silas Fleming, who was Chairman of the school board, signed her diploma. Also from the class of '22 was Raymond Ritter. Boyce Kellogg, Merritt Hittle and Mrs. Amelia (Tepovac) Chamberlin, from the class of 1927, were also in the line-up of dignitaries.

L to R Linda Genaw, Jeremy Warren, Aric Genaw, Amanda Huffman and Alma Gates, who are working towards National Historic recognition for Hanby Junior High Photo by Mr. Hudsen

Amanda Huffman, Aric Genaw and Jeremy Warren, the T.A.G. students, with teacher Alma Gates and historical advisor Linda Genaw, were featured at the birthday party. They had a very interesting slide show to explain their work. These three students are outstanding speakers as well as scholars, so we had a very interesting presentation.

Alma's thank you to the Gold Hill Historical Society for the $200.00 to help finance this nomination project was greatly appreciated by the members who were present.

Gene Heil

L to R Ruby Lacy and partner Lida Childers with their display of over 40 books at the Gold Hill Library's Diamond Jubilee Photo by Linda Genaw

Historical Event # 3 :

At the city council meeting of May 7, 1990, Mayor Jay DeYoe appointed Linda Genaw as the official Gold Hill Historian. Linda was chosen because of her hard work and dedication in preserving Gold Hill's history. City officials appreciate the fact that Linda always seems to know where to locate whatever is needed, or aim them in the right direction.

Historic Event # 4 :

For the first time, the Rogue Valley Reserve Police Academy graduation was held in the city of Gold Hill. On May 20, 1990 at the

Gold Hill city hall fifteen graduates received certificates of graduation.

The two graduates from Gold Hill were Wanda Burns, who was the only female, and Art Stolz who was top scholar. Master of Ceremonies was Chief Katie Holomboe, Gold Hill Police Department.

Fellow member, Margaret (Moore) Simpson, who attended Gold Hill schools, and graduated from Crater High in 1974, has just completed her education at the University of Portland. Margaret received her Bachelor of Arts in Education on May 6,1990. She graduated with honors, Maxima Cum Laude!

Margaret worked while her husband Bill went through college, and postponed going to school until her children were of school age before furthering her education. Congratulations Margaret, Bill, Emilie and Clare.

About a year ago, when our creative minds were hot in pursuit of items and ideas for making the newsletter more interesting, we came up with this idea!! We will be gleaning articles from the Gold Hill Nuggets, and other sources, for items of historic interest.

We have been unable to run these to date due to lack of space, as we were only doing four newsletters a year. This year, however, we have specific funds for the newsletter in our budget, so we are presenting our first excerpt, which was taken from the 1940 Gold Hill Nugget. The following was written by Dr. Shannon Thornton in 1940.

GOLD HILL FIFTY YEARS FROM NOW

First Version

On the tenth of June, 1990, we are on our way to the Cement center of the world. The advertisement blocks situated flush to the surface of the highway, announce and praise the economic importance of Beaver Cement. The foundations of the world of this great day are dependant upon cement as one of the greatest single elements of building. The cement dust, a by-product, is the national substitute for bicarbonate of soda, flour, sugar, salt, sandpaper, and glue.

The town, Gold Hill, announces itself by large cement-dust-proof neon signs, miles before we reach the city. Robot-driven trucks pass by us, piled high with huge bags of cement. We enter the city, a colossal thing of steel. Machines whine and roar; tremendous cranes strain and lift; whirling rollers crush and pound. Indeed, we are in the industrial center of the universe! Signs of warning are to be seen: DANGER!! FALLING CEMENT BAGS! KEEP YOUR CEMENT-PROOF SUITS AND HATS ON! Surely this can't be our little city of Gold Hill, grown so big and strong? We are proud to see such greatness as a wreath upon the brow of the fairest city in the land. Oh well--we knew old Gold Hill had it in her anyway.

Second Version

As we carefully wend our way through the undergrowth of manzanita, poison oak, blackberry vines, rose bushes, and nettles, we are confronted with a feeling of absolute desolation. Not a soul do we see, though we scan the hills time after time to see if any danger is approaching. Who knows but what we might meet up with some denizen of the woods? We come to the top of a mountain, a crystal clear river flows placidly at its bottom. The ruins of a town are to be seen. A large mound of grass mixed with a hard substance, called cement, is what some say was an enormous cement plant.

We toil our way down the mountain-side. We cross the river. In the blackened ruins of a large building we find a placque with the names of the honor students of 1940. Large holes pocket the ground. A member of our party said that once this city was an important center for the manufacturing of cement. The cement was used for the building of bomb-proof shelters. Because of that, the city was razed to the ground by attackers, people from the East, and they themselves were demolished when they reaped what they had sown. The under-carriage of a huge war plane is seen. Two skeletons lay beneath it in the rust-

covered ground, monuments to a lost people.

A hawk flies low, dives, and rises with a squirrel in its claws. Such is life, a continuous struggle for existence. Many wild animals are to be seen. Man rules no more. Desolation----.
Shannon Thornton class of '41

Shannon Thornton, "Blackie" below as he appeared in the 1940-41 Gold Hill High School "Nugget"

*Quotes & class credits, numbers represent year involved, first year, 1 etc.

"The false fire of an over-heated mind" Nampa Junior High School 1; Grants Pass High School 2; Gold Hill High School 3, 4; Glee Club 1, 2, 3, 4; Play Cast 2, 3, 4,; Student Council 2; Representative and Announcer of Radio Club 2; Play Staff 3; Nugget Artist 3,4.

Now that we are actually approaching June 10,1990, it's nice to note that we are somewhere in between the two versions Dr. Thornton describes.

MEMBER PROFILE

by Janet Sessions

James Lee Malone:

On May 7, 1907, James Lee Malone was born in Klamath Falls, Oregon. At six years of age he rode horseback for three miles to attend classes in a small log schoolhouse. When he was seven a move to Gold Hill led him to attend classes at the school on Foots Creek.

His family had a long history in the Klamath Falls area. For 40 years his Irish grandfather (James Daniel) was the well-liked postmaster in the Langell Valley, just 17 miles out of Bonanza. The Malone Diversion Dam, (named in honor of the longtime postmaster) at the head of the valley, was built on Lee's father, Robert Lee Malone's homestead. (Findley's Bend on the Rogue River is also named after one of Lee's ancestors, but that is another story.)

Lee estimates that he's made at least 60 trips, on horseback, between Gold Hill and Klamath Falls via the Greensprings. He did have a pack animal and would stay overnight at Pinehurst. Up until he was about 40 years old he worked with stock, so the seasoned "cowboy" was at home in the saddle.

Del Rio Orchards hired Lee as Foreman in 1941. "Bout the only ones I could hire during WWII were women and kids," he relates. That's how Edith entered his life. The petite widow "wasn't very good with the ladders but I learned she sure could cook." (When the two married, Lee weighed exactly twice as much as his bride - 117lbs to 234 lbs.)

Following the 10+ years at the orchard, the ex-cowboy moved on to work at Beaver/Ideal Cement plant where he spent the next 17 years running the kiln.

Now retired (Edith from the postal service), the Malones keep busy with friends, family and the I.O.O.F. activities, where Lee is a Past Grand. The couple still works the Saturday night dances every few weeks.

Their three children Larry, Lavon Saxbury, and Sylvia Lee Morgan, all live within 10 miles of their parents. The elder Malones are also the proud grandparents of six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

On April 4, 1990 52 6th graders from Patrick Elementary School cleaned grave sites at Rock Point Cemetery. Two 6th grade students, Kathy Pasley and Fay Robinson, were instrumental in presenting the project to their social studies teacher, Mrs. Sara Brooks. Mr. Raymond Ritter, a long time resident of Gold Hill, greeted the students and gave a short historical talk on the area and on some of the people buried at the cemetery. The students were particularly interested in the grave site of Margaret Patrick, a teacher in the early 1900's, for whom the Patrick School was named.

The students were accompanied by principal, Robert Bowers, teacher Mrs. Sara Brooks, substitute teacher, Mrs. Ginny Anderson, resource teacher, Craig Baker and Gold Hill Historical Society member Mary Bradish.

The Rogue River Press and the Central Valley Times reporters were also there with cameras and notebooks.

Mrs. Vi Akin, a Gold Hill resident was on hand to open the cemetery gates. Before boarding the bus to return to school, Mrs. Akin treated all to ice cold lemonade and/or ice water.

As the bus was about to leave, a front tire blew, causing much excitement. However, a car was dispatched to Patrick and a relief bus arrived and rescued the stranded students.

The students expressed the desire to repeat this community service more often.

Saturday May 26 will be a general cleanup at the cemetery from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

There are many volunteers from the above group planning to participate once again.

Mary Bradish

Member Marjorie Edens, who is S.O.H.S.'s local history director gave a very informative program on the art of obtaining oral histories. Marjorie gave everyone in attendance a packet of guidelines to follow which will be very helpful to those conducting an oral interview.

Ms. Edens explained some of the pitfalls encountered while doing oral histories. She gave several examples of how to get a person back on the subject, if the conversation gets sidetracked. Ms. Edens programs are always very educational and interesting .

THANK YOU, MARJORIE

MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

Ted and Armilla Wharton for their generous donations of an oak speaker's podium, (that Ted built) and a very unique 1920 secretary desk, (that Ted re-built & re-finished especially for G.H.H.S.). They have also entrusted us with a one-hundred-sixteen-year-old ladder-back chair that was brought to Oregon in the Miller family's covered wagon. Ted was also kind enough to do some much needed repair work on the cement floors of our building.

Genevieve Heil for her dedicated and efficient work as G.H.H.S. secretary. She has given endless hours to our organization in many different ways, even when she was under-the-weather.

Ruth Starns Harmon for donating some of her family photographs to us. She has also assisted our president in gathering historical information and continues to offer her help on a regular basis.

Mary Bradish for allowing us the use of her beautiful American flag and stand at our monthly meetings.

Janet Sessions for doing a great job of painting the cement floor in the back room of our office building.

Ida Tilley for video taping Ted's speech, and providing our society with a copy for our archives.

Anne Millbrooke for providing us with two very helpful and informative books.

Cindy Faubion, President

Thanks are also given to Mary Barker for donating an old 1895 lesson plan book that was found at Hanby. It contained a report card from 1895, a certificate of promotion dated 1893 and a Grants Pass graduation notice.

We would like to give a special thanks to **Mary Lou Campbell** for an exceptional job proof reading the newsletter. Linda, Clare and Gene

In memory of Ida Wharton, donations totaling $10 were collected for the Boy Scouts of America at our April meeting.

Ted Wharton gave an excellent program at our May 15, 1990 meeting. He told of the Gold Hill he remembered.

Mr. Wharton's ancestors were early settlers on Sardine Creek. His Grandfather Benjamin Miller was a nurseryman, and supplied the area with some of the first fruit trees.

Highlights included his memory of learning the alphabet from the letters used on his father's printing press. Unfortunately, he found out that he had learned them upside down and backwards!

Another anecdote remembered was he and his friend were riding bikes through town and his friend was carrying a rifle on the bike handlebars. The gun went off accidentally and put a hole through someone's vehicle. These boys had to make restitution, by chopping wood for the car owner.

Ted hiked over the hills to visit his relatives on Sardine Creek quite often.

In 1929, he and his father were up on the hill behind Gold Hill, when lighting stuck his father. His father survived, but it took three years for him to recover from the shock. His father had to give up the newspaper business, and his family moved to Medford.

Wharton shared pictures of his family, and one from July 16, 1915 of a train, carrying the Liberty Bell. The train parked on the Gold Hill siding for the night and was guarded.

Ted shared other remembrances of his time spent in Gold Hill, and how he did not like moving to Medford.

He talked of the many mines that surround Gold Hill, and related stories of large nuggets that were found in them.

His father bought and remodeled the family home on the northern corner of 6th Ave. and 7th Street.

There was an old bearded man who lived near them, called "Old Duck". Ted's father thought he might be Black Bart. They never knew for sure. The man gave a pack saddle to Ted's father. Ted gave it to the S.O.H.S. thirty years ago.

Ida Tilley videotaped this fascinating and humorous program, which will provide the Gold Hill Historical Society a copy for our archives.

Mary Bradish reported that the Patrick School Grandparent Day/Art Carnival was a great success.

Everyone enjoyed the display of historic photographs that the society provided.

Due to poor health, Gene Heil, will be assisted by the capable hands of Janet Sessions in her secretarial duties.

Member Daniel Cushman, who is a fifth grader at Patrick, came up with the theme for Gold Dust Days. The event will be held June 9, at Patrick School. His winning theme is "Gold Rush of the 90's." Congratulations, Daniel!

Clare reports that the Daisy Hewitt house located on 4th Ave. is for sale. The asking price is $27,500.00 cash. The property consists of four 25 X 100 foot city lots.

The building was originally a leather shop. This building has historic significance and would make a good museum. We need someone to volunteer to seek funding for this building or any other logical downtown location.

Janet Sessions and Cindy Faubion are in charge of the grand opening the 23rd of June. If you would like to help with preparations contact either one of them.

The Jackson County Fair will run from July 15th through the 22nd. We will need lots of volunteers to man our booth. Please contact Alyce Bottleson, who is Chairperson, and sign up for a time slot.

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 26, Gold Hill, OR 97525 until midnight of Thursday, June 14, 1990, for:

The demolition and removal of brick building. Approximately 13,500 antique, hand-pressed, red brick with lime mortar joints. 240 running feet of 6 ft. high chain link fence, one steel gate and 8 ft. high horizontal steel supports. Corrugated metal roofing, approximately 4 & 12 pitch. Concrete supports and some timbers. To view building call 855-9351.

The Gold Hill Historical Society reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or to accept that bid which is deemed to be in the best interest of the Society.

(All qualified bidders can be assured that their proposal will receive fair and equitable consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin or handicap.) All bids are subject to the requirements of ORS Chapter 279 and the ordinances, rules and regulations of Jackson County.

The bid invitation that appeared in the Sunday May 26th, "Mail Tribune" is opened for bids from anyone interested. If you or anyone you know is interested, please respond with your bid no later than June 14, 1990.

While doing research for the Hanby project, I came across an item of interest. It appears that the city of Gold Hill could be celebrating one more 75th birthday this year. The Gold Hill beach was officially dedicated as a municipal beach July 18,1915.

With the current interest in improving the beach area, this could tie in real easily with any event that the city might plan.

I hope you enjoy this article from the "Gold Hill News".

Linda A. Genaw

"GOLD HILL NEWS July 24,1915"

SWIM AND DIVE FETE IS POPULAR

All Gold Hill, and much of Southern Oregon, held up two fingers in the boyhood code for "goin swimming" Sunday afternoon, when the Gold Hill municipal bathing beach was formerly opened in a grand racing and diving contest. Scores of entrants, expert swimmers and divers, attended from this city and other points of the valley. New records for the local time in various distances via water were established, some of these comparing favorably with professional performances.

The main events, with the winning entrants, were as follows: 50 yards, time 27 sec., L. Schuchard, Medford, 1st; J. Cameron, Gold Hill, 2d; F. Ray and H. Alford, Medford, 3d and 4th.

100 yards, time 1 min. 17 sec., Carl Henderson, Gold Hill, 1st; J. Cameron 2d; Iverson, 3d.

200 yards, time 1 min. 56 sec., W. Knotts, 1st; F. Sutton, 2d.

Fat men's race M. Johnson, 1st, Doc Kelsey, 2d.

Spring board dive, C. Henderson 1st; Alford, Medford, 2d; Reed, Betts, Schuchard.

Fancy 20 foot dive, Alford, Medford, 1st; Henderson, 2d.
Fancy 50 foot dive Alford.

Boy's 40 yard race, 27 sec. Cecil Johnson, 1st; Jim Chisholm, 2d.

Boys 40 yard race, 47 sec. H. McClendon, 1st; E. Hill, 2d.

Boy's Spring board dive. V. Fleming, 1st; J. McClendon, 2d; C. Johnson 3d.

Alford, of Medford, is a master high diver, taking both the 25 and 50 foot dive with graceful lack of effort.

Roy P. Tucker acted as master of ceremonies for the occasion.

Gold Hill's new bathing beach is the old swimming hole of local boydom, with appurtenances and improvements. It fronts upon a spacious pool of the Rogue, where the river rests before charging down a half mile of riffle and rapids. It is within the city limits. Dr. R.C. Kelsey of the Greater Gold Hill club, is in charge of the pleasing project for that organization.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

To our members,

This has certainly been an exciting time for our organization. Our membership continues to grow steadily and we are receiving more new memberships on a regular basis. The progress on our new building is coming along nicely, thanks to our kind volunteers who give generously of their time. The oral histories are being turned in at a very respectable rate, with more expected in the near future. Plus we are looking forward to our June grand opening ceremony, to which you are all invited.

In closing, I hope to see you all at our June 23rd ceremony.

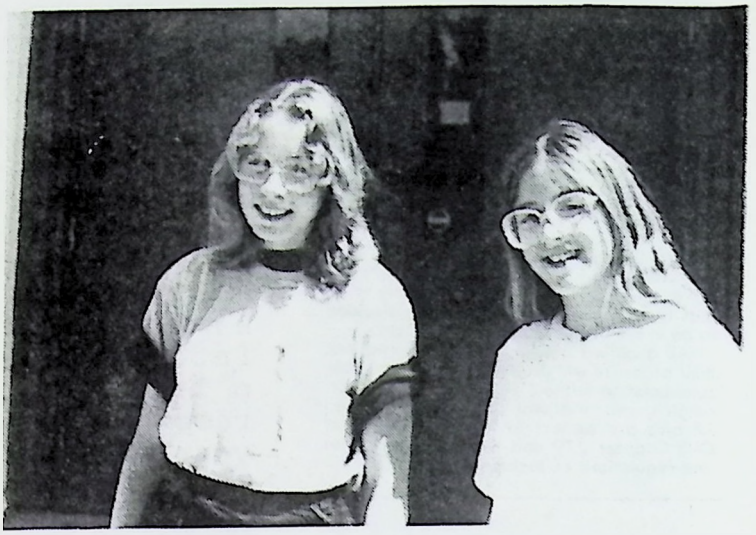
Festivities will begin at 2:00 p.m. at our office at 165 4th St.. William Tramposh, Executive Director of the Oregon Historical Society, will be the key-note speaker.

Please call, if you have any questions or would like to help during the grand opening.

Cindy Faubion, President

Mrs. Barker gave us the names of two very responsible young ladies from Hanby Junior High to help care for our scrapbook. Rachel Merusi and Maris Mapolski will be in charge of the scrapbooks until school is closed for the summer.

We sincerely appreciate their interest and the time they volunteer to work on this very important project. Ted Wharton will take charge of the job during the summer months.



Rachel Merusi (Left) and Maris Mapolski (Right)
Photo by Linda Genaw

Please add the following new members to your roster:

Virgil & Ruby Lacy, P.O. Box 628, Ashland, Oregon 97520 482-2273
John & Lida Childers, P.O.Box 77, Talent, Oregon 97540 535-5906
Neal and Sue Price, P.O. Box 892 Elgin, Oregon 97827-0892 437-0872
Patrick & Judy Mawe, 4491 Jacksonville Hwy. Central Point, Ore. 97502 770-4662

If you, or a friend would like to help us preserve the rich history of Gold Hill and the surrounding area, receive the historical society newsletter, and other fun stuff, complete the form below and return it with your $5.00 check or money order for a Family Membership to:

Gold Hill Historical Society
P. O. Box 26
165 4th St. Phone 855-9351
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Telephone_____

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